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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY

USSR - Estonian SSR

SUBJECT Economic - Shale DATE OF INFORMATION

1950-1953

HOW

-

PUBLISHED Daily newspapers DATE DIST. 5 APR 1954

WHERE

PUBLISHED

Tallin, Moscow

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE

PUBLISHED

23 Jun-4 Nov 1953

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE Russian

REPORT NO.

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As indicated

ESTONIAN SHALE INDUSTRY REPORTS PROGRESS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Miners of the Estonslanets Combine completed the 7-month program 20 days ahead of schedule (1), the 8-month program 15 days ahead of schedule (2), the 9-month program on 10 September (3), and the 10-month program on 9 October (4). If the 1950 Estonian shale output is taken as 100 percent, then the 1951 output was 128.8 percent and the 1952 output 145.9 percent.(5) In October 1953, the 1953 output was 1 1/2 times that of 1950.(4)

In the shale mines, all the basic labor-consuming processes have been mechanized and 73 percent of the faces of the Estonslanets Combine have been converted to the cycle work schedule. This improvement has caused a rise of 26 percent in the shale output and a 20-percent increase in labor productivity. The productivity of all mine mechanisms has also risen, and production costs per ton of shale have dropped 65 kopeks below those of 1952, which is 28 kopeks below costs provided for by the plan. (3)

It was reported on 23 June 1953 that the Kukruse and Kyava mines as well as Mine No 6 had already exceeded their planned capacities.(6) The Kukruse Mine was awarded the Transferable Red Barner of the Ministry of Coal Industry and the VTsSPS (All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions) and, in addition, a first prize in the September competition among mines of Glavslanets (Main Administration of the Shale Industry) of the Ministry of Coal Industry USSR. The mine had fulfilled the September plan for shale output 113.4 percent and the plan for labor productivity 114 percent. During 9 months of 1953, the mine delivered 198,000 rubles in savings above the plan. (7)

Mine No 10, the largest mine in the Estonian shale basin, began, on 20 October, to cut the first 600-meter panel (section). The width of the panels in the shale mines formerly had been 300 meters. By enlarging them and changing the plan of existing workings, a stable front for extraction operations is created, the exploitation period of the faces is increased, and extraction costs are greatly reduced.

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In 1948, Estonian shale mines were still being worked by the room and pillar method. Several persons worked in small quarters, and extensive mechanization of production processes was impossible. By the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan the room and pillar method had been discontinued and the mines were worked instead by 80-meter double faces and were provided with cutting machines, conveyers, machines for propping mine workings, and other mechanisms. The length of a number of faces in Kukruse Mine and Mine No 10 has been raised to 95 meters. At present three fourths of all the faces in the basin are operating on the cycle work schedule.

Engineers and technicians of the Estonslane's Combine have worked out a new scheme of operations whereby the average width of panels will be raised to 500-600 meters and the average length of faces 120-150 meters. This scheme will permit an increase of one fourth in the shale output and will allow for better utilization of mechanisms. The productivity of conveyers and cutting machines will be raised to one and a half times its previous level. Expenses will be cut for development work and for installation and disassembly operations.(8)

SOURCES

- 1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 21 Jul 53
- 2. Ibid., 30 Aug 53
- 3. Tbid., 12 Sep 53
- 4. Ibid., 11 Oct 53
- 5. Ibid., 7 Jul 53
- 6. Moscow, Trud, 23 Jun 53
- 7. Sovetskaya Estoniya, 4 Nov 53
- 8. Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 21 Oct 53

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